

FACT SHEET: Health Care in Illinois
What the Affordable Care Act is doing for Illinois families

The Affordable Care Act has already covered nearly one in three uninsured Americans – more than sixteen million – and improved coverage for virtually everyone with health coverage. Americans can no longer be denied coverage because of preexisting conditions, women can't be charged more just for being women, and there are no more annual caps on the care patients receive. Hospitals, doctors and other providers are changing the way they operate to deliver better care at lower cost. Hospitals, doctors and other providers are changing the way they operate to deliver better care at lower cost. In the years to come, the ability to buy portable and affordable plans on a competitive marketplace will allow countless Americans to move, start businesses, and dream big American dreams – without worrying if an illness will bankrupt them. Here is how the Affordable Care Act is working for families in Illinois:

After Health Reform: Improved Access to Care

- Gallup recently estimated that the uninsured rate in Illinois in 2014 was 11 percent, down from 15.5 percent in 2013.
- Prohibits coverage denials and reduced benefits, protecting as many as 5,635,622 Illinoisans who have some type of pre-existing health condition, including 752,785 children.
- Eliminates lifetime and annual limits on insurance coverage and establishes annual limits on out-of-pocket spending on essential health benefits, benefiting 4,670,000 people in Illinois, including 1,743,000 women and 1,192,000 children.
- Expands Medicaid to all non-eligible adults with incomes under 133% of the federal poverty level. 541,846 more people in Illinois have gained Medicaid or CHIP coverage since the beginning of the Health Insurance Marketplace first open enrollment period.
- Establishes a system of state and federal health insurance exchanges, or marketplaces, to make it easier for individuals and small-business employees to purchase health plans at affordable prices through which 293,661 people in Illinois were covered in March 2015.

- Created a temporary high-risk pool program to cover uninsured people with pre-existing conditions prior to 2014 reforms which helped more than 3,638 people in Illinois.
- Creates health plan disclosure requirements and simple, standardized summaries so 7,475,600 people in Illinois can better understand coverage information and compare benefits.

After Health Reform: More Affordable Care

- Creates a tax credit to help 232,371 people in Illinois who otherwise cannot afford it purchase health coverage through health insurance marketplaces.
- Requires health insurers to provide consumers with rebates if the amount they spend on health benefits and quality of care, as opposed to advertising and marketing, is too low. Last year, 108,581 consumers in Illinois received \$8,387,603 in rebates.
- Eliminates out-of-pocket costs for preventive services like immunizations, certain cancer screenings, contraception, reproductive counseling, obesity screening, and behavioral assessments for children. This coverage is guaranteed for more than 5,883,105 people in Illinois including 2,380,326 women.
- Eliminates out-of-pocket costs for 1,496,149 Medicare beneficiaries in Illinois for preventive services like cancer screenings, bone-mass measurements, annual physicals, and smoking cessation.
- Phases out the “donut hole” coverage gap for 194,280 Medicare prescription drug beneficiaries in Illinois, who have saved an average of \$925 per beneficiary.
- Creates Accountable Care Organizations consisting of doctors and other health-care providers who share in savings from keeping patients well while improving quality, helping 490,008 Medicare beneficiaries in Illinois.
- Phases out overpayments through the Medicare Advantage system, while requiring Medicare Advantage plans to spend at least 85 percent of Medicare revenue on patient care. Medicare Advantage enrollment has grown by 258,886 to 435,039 in Illinois since 2009.

After Health Reform: Improved Quality and Accountability to You

- Provides incentives to hospitals in Medicare to reduce hospital-acquired infections and avoidable readmissions. Creates a collaborative health-safety learning network,

the Partnership for Patients, that includes 101 hospitals in Illinois to promote best quality practices.

We're not done. Other legislation and executive actions are continuing to advance the cause of effective, accountable and affordable health care. This includes:

- Incentive payments for doctors, hospitals, and other providers to adopt and use certified electronic health records (EHR). In Illinois more than 66.8 percent of hospitals and 58.7 percent of providers have electronic health records systems.
- A new funding pool for Community Health Centers to build, expand and operate health-care facilities in underserved communities. Health Center grantees in Illinois now serve 1,153,336 patients and received \$332,442,046 under the health care law to offer a broader array of primary care services, extend their hours of operations, hire more providers, and renovate or build new clinical spaces.
- Health provider training opportunities, with an emphasis on primary care, including a significant expansion of the National Health Service Corps. As of September 30, 2014, there were 488 Corps clinicians providing primary care services in Illinois, compared to 168 clinicians in 2008.

###
